(iii) Cancer

Under National Cancer Programme, there are 19 Regional Cancer Centres that are providing comprehensive cancer treatment to the patients and conducting research activities. Government of India is providing assistance under various schemes of National Cancer Control Programme to Medical Colleges/NGOs and State Governments for purchase of Cobalt Unit, Linear Accelerator etc. and for conducting awareness and early detection activities on cancer.

Illegible printing of names of medicines

†768. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the names on the allopathic and other medicines being manufactured by Government as well as private Limited Companies are written in very small font which are illegible for patients;

(b) whether the names of the medicines manufactured in the country are not written in Hindi;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the necessary steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that names of the medicines are written in the bold letter as well as in Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1945, names of the allopathic and other medicines by all companies are required to be printed or written in a conspicuous manner.

(b) to (d) Some manufacturers voluntarily published drug information in Hindi as well as in English on the labels and package inserts for the benefit of the consumers. However, in view of the shortage of space on the label, it has not been considered appropriate to make it mandatory to print labels etc. in more than one language.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.